

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7, and 12-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 and 12-19 have been cancelled without prejudice leaving Claim 7 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. The claims have been cancelled without prejudice to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph

Claims 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled Claims 12-19 without prejudice thereby making this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,746,567 to Herbermann et al. ("Herbermann"). Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 and 12-19 without prejudice thereby making this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Herbermann. Applicant has cancelled Claim 2 without prejudice thereby making this claim rejection moot.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Herbermann in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,251,993 to Sigourney ("Sigourney"). Applicant has cancelled Claim 3 without prejudice thereby making this claim rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully acknowledges that Claim 7 stands allowed.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that a patent consisting of Claim 7 issue. It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that Claim 7 should stand allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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